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Republican in 1860-1861, was urged for a cabinet position and Lincoln preferred Montgomery Blair. This, added to a perhaps natural antipathy of the Davis temperament and that of Lincoln, seems to have determined the pretty steady criticism directed at the administration throughout the war by the Maryland member. The violent attack on Lincoln in the well-known Wade-Davis manifesto of August 8, 1864, not only failed utterly to discredit the President, but caused the termination of Davis's service in Congress.

To many the most interesting and instructive chapters of Dr. Steiner's book will be the first three. These consist of notes on Davis's early life written by himself shortly before his death. The opening sentences give to the sensitive reader as clear an insight into the writer's character and temperament as all the rest of the book.

I am now forty-eight years old.

The glories of the world have passed before me, but have not lighted on my head.

I have lived during great events in which I have not been permitted to be an actor.

When a man of forty-eight begins a retrospect of his life in this key, one can foresee at once a tale of disappointed ambition. The notes end when Davis has reached the age of twenty-three. The actual events of the boy's life are not distinctive of the man, but the spirit in which they are presented is eloquent of the future.

Dr. Steiner's own chapters are shaped in an endeavor to write the life "in the manner of Tacitus and Plutarch, rather than in that of the modern biographer" (preface). Competent critics will doubtless differ as to the degree of success achieved; but I think there will be substantial agreement that Dr. Steiner's preparatory diet of the Roman and the Greek writers consisted more of the nutritious than the juicy portions of their output. Davis's career is exhibited in a series of chapters fixed by the successive Congresses of which he was a member, and the bulk of the matter in each chapter consists of digests of his speeches, illustrated by numerous quotations. The quotations in many cases are highly interesting.

WM. A. DUNNING.

Caribbean Interests of the United States. By CHESTER LLOYD JONES, Professor of Political Science in the University of Wisconsin. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1916. Pp. x, 379.)

IN what the author of this volume calls the Caribbean region, there are eleven countries of distinct nationality; nine colonies, British, French, Dutch, and Danish; and one possession of the United States. The geographical location and commercial importance of the Mexican state of Yucatan would seem to give it a proper place on the list, but it is not included. Professor Jones believes that "the average American citizen does not realize the importance of his country's relations with

other nations, especially with its American neighbors", and is undoubtedly right in his belief. The declared object of his book is "to present in popular form a brief outline of the more important political and economic developments in these countries which have a bearing upon the foreign policy and commerce of the United States".

The book deals, almost exclusively, with the affairs of the last twenty years. It notes the commercial, financial, and political development of the different countries within that time. As the author admits, the field is quite too wide for an exhaustive discussion in a single volume. A comment, rather than a criticism, might be made regarding a lack of balance in the matter presented, that is, somewhat too much on some topics and somewhat too little on others of, perhaps, a greater importance. Thus, a much larger attention is given to the British and other colonial possessions than is given to Venezuela and Columbia combined, notwithstanding their far greater economic and political possibilities. While the points which receive the author's larger attention are of moment, there seems to be a sacrifice of other points of even greater moment.

The opening chapter emphasizes, though not at all unduly, the ever-growing world-importance of the Caribbean area, notably through the fact that, as an approach to the Panama Canal, it will be "the cross-roads of the western world". To this is added comment on the rapid expansion of the commerce of some of the more important countries of that region; on the steady and rapid influx of foreign capital; on the necessity for regarding the health problem as international; and on "the fundamental problem of public order". The chapter closes with the assertion that "the position of the United States, politically and commercially, among the nations of the world will largely be influenced by the way we handle the responsibilities and opportunities which center in the waters of the Caribbean". In the second chapter a few pages referring to our political interest in some of the countries under consideration serve as a prelude to a few pages of statement of the economic and commercial progress of the entire area, and to American investments in parts of it.

Nine chapters are devoted to a more or less detailed review of the relations of the United States to the individual countries and colonies; two chapters to Panama and the Canal; one chapter each to Caribbean products, bananas, oil, harbors and naval bases, and concessions and the Monroe Doctrine. Much useful information is presented, largely through drafts on consular reports and reports of special agents of the Department of Commerce. In any attempt to cover, in 350 pages of text, a field as wide as that into which Professor Jones has ventured, an orderly progress of statement and comment is exceedingly difficult. It cannot be said that this writer has been notably successful in that phase of his work. The impression left by the book is of an effort to crowd too much into its pages; of an *olla podrida* in which the in-

gredients are not well proportioned. A number of quite inaccurate statements call for correction in a possible second edition.

A. G. ROBINSON.

The Single Tax Movement in the United States. By ARTHUR NICHOLS YOUNG, Ph.D., Instructor in Economics and Social Institutions, Princeton University. (Princeton: Princeton University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1916. Pp. x, 340.)

It is just thirty years since Henry George as a candidate for mayor of New York received 68,110 votes as against 60,435 for Theodore Roosevelt and 90,552 for Abram S. Hewitt. George had come to New York, only six years earlier, from California, whither he had gone at eighteen years of age, and had followed the occupations of printer, newspaper editor, and inspector of gas meters. His death in 1897 when he was again a candidate for mayor was the occasion of a demonstration of popular veneration which marked him, beyond question, as a leader of men.

George was a man without political ambitions. The sole reason for his nomination in 1886 was that he had written a book which had attracted world-wide attention, setting forth an explanation of the causes of poverty, and proposing a simple remedy by which it might be abolished, and that he had shown extraordinary ability, both as writer and speaker, in sustaining his thesis in a manner that appealed to the popular mind. In the space of a few years he had risen from obscurity and become the leader in a new crusade for human liberty and the welfare of the masses. It was certainly a remarkable occurrence, and it is not strange that George and his followers should have believed that their cause was bound to triumph in the near future.

A generation has passed, however, with few positive results achieved, least of all in the United States. While there can be no doubt that *Progress and Poverty* has gained its place among the books which have exercised a real influence on the course of thought concerning economic and social problems, particularly financial problems, the single-tax movement, instead of assuming a dominating rôle, has become one of the minor movements for economic reform. But whatever the outcome, whether it revives as a strong, independent movement or is absorbed in the general current of economic thought, it has historical importance not only for economics, but in the life of the people of the United States.

Dr. Young has performed a service of real value by showing the influence of the peculiar economic conditions in California, particularly the conditions of land tenure, on the development of George's ideas; the circumstances which explain his rapid rise to prominence in New York and throughout the world; the subsequent course of the single-tax